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John R. Blake

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EXAMINER

MCCLAIN, GERALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/12/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/797,839	Applicant(s) BLAKE ET AL.	
	Examiner GERALD W. MCCLAIN	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-16,25-27,30,31,33 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-16,25-27,30,31,33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed 4 June 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the original claims and specification, it was not specified that the door was "only" moved "subsequent to the opening of the door of the housing". There may be other causes of the movement such as tipping the apparatus.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the original claims and specification, it was not specified that the door was "only" moved "from the first operable position to said second

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inoperable position [and back]". There may be other causes of the movement such as finite movement between the first and second operable positions.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 26-27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In Claim 26, line 4 (including line through), it is unclear if there are or not other mechanisms for opening the door.

In Claim 27, it is unclear if there are other movements of the platforms along the tracks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hino, et al. (US 2002/0162724) ("Hino").

Claim 1: housing (See FIG. 2, 110); coin sorter (S); input hopper (112); rotatable disk (2); stationary head (1); lower surface ([0137]); shaped regions (10); exit channels (8a to 8c); coin receptacle station (120); coin receptacles (124a to 124j); first position

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(FIG. 2); second position (FIG. 4); manifold (location of 152); coin paths (152);

dampening mechanism (See FIG. 4 below, C & 122a and 122b);

Claim 2: casters (122b);

Claim 4: dampening mechanism (See FIG. 4 below, C and 122a); coin receptacle station (120); first end (See FIG. 4 below, C); housing (110); second end (See FIG. 4 below, Back Side (opposite Front Side) of 122a).

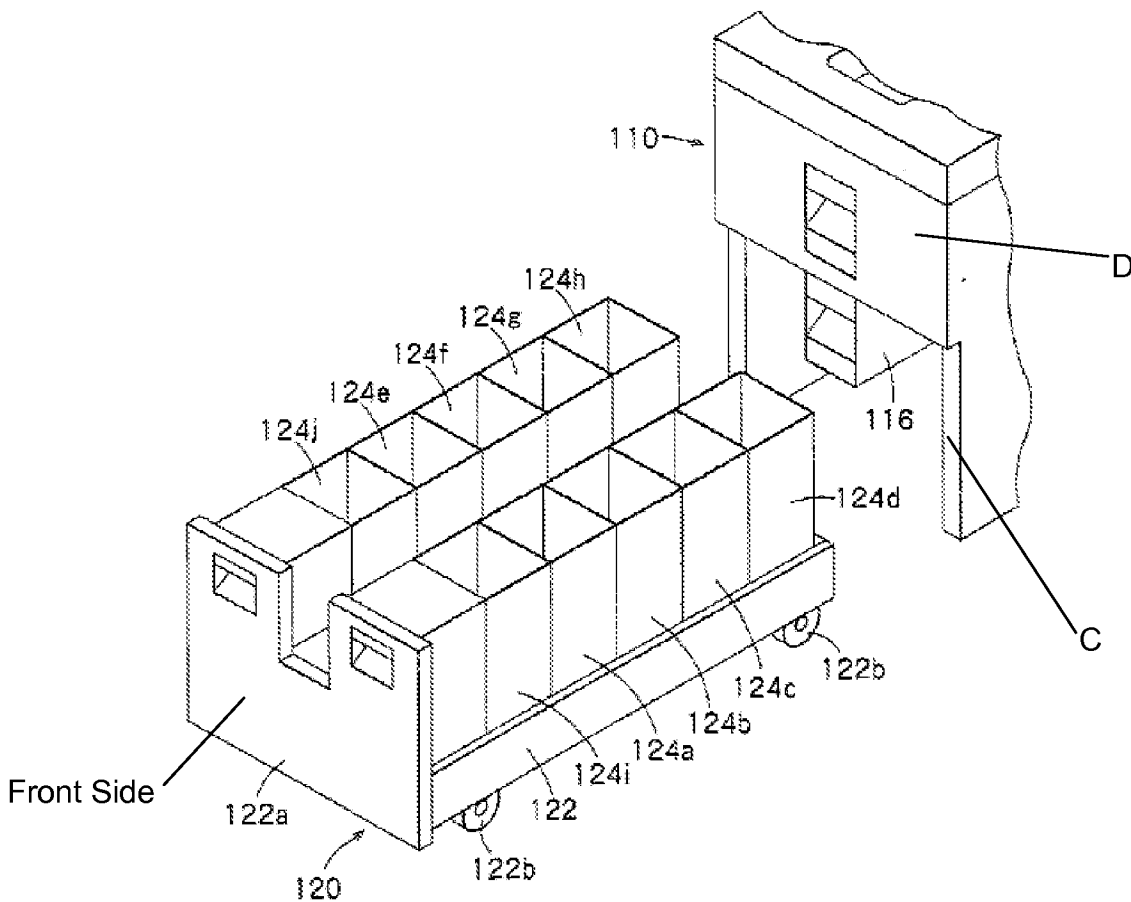


FIG. 4

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Jones, et al. (US 6,318,537) ("Jones"). Hino teaches all the limitations of the claims as discussed above. Hino does not directly show coin bags or coin bag holders.

Jones shows a similar device having a coin bags (52) and coin bag holders (58) for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination (column 2, lines 25-28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Jones and include Jones' similar device having a coin bags and coin bag holders for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination.

Claim 5, 7-9, 27, and 33-34, as understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Lense (US 4,387,942).

Hino discloses:

Claim 5: housing (See FIG. 2, 110); coin processing device (inside 110); coin processing unit (S); coin receptacles (124a to 124j); coin receptacle station (120); moveable platforms (122); first position (FIG. 2); second position (FIG. 4);

Claim 7: coin processing unit (S); disk-type coin sorter (S); exit channels (8a to 8c);

Claim 8: manifold (location of 152); coin paths (152); exit channels (8a to 8c); coin receptacles (124a to 124j);

Claim 9: coin receptacles (124a to 124j); coin bins (124a to 124j);

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Claim 27: housing (See FIG. 2, 110); coin processing device (inside 110); coin sorting unit (S); coin receptacle area (area taken by 120); coin receptacle station (120); coin receptacles (124a to 124j); moveable platforms (122); first position (FIG. 2); second position (FIG. 5); moveable coin bin (the enclosed space of 124a to 124j); interior (the enclosed space of 124a to 124j).

Hino does not directly disclose a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms or a (Claim 33) *mating, trapezoidal* track on which the platforms are *centered and* (Claim 34) *cantilevered* (a rectangle is a type of trapezoid).

However, the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hino and include a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms for the purpose of providing more receiving space.

Lense shows a similar device having a track (see Fig. 3, 26; Note: the overall track profile is a rectangle) for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in a coin receptacle station in the housing (column 1, lines 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Lense and include Lense's similar device having a track for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in a coin receptacle station in the housing.

Claim 25, as understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Lense. Hino discloses:

Claim 25: receiving in a coin input region (A) a plurality of coins of a plurality of predetermined denominations (112; paragraph [0135]);

sorting the plurality of coins according to denomination with the coin sorting unit (S; paragraph [0130]);

directing (10) sorted coins to the plurality of coin receptacles (124a to 124j),

determining, using a controller (U', FIG. 42), if a predetermined number of coins (paragraph [0042], the number can be all the coins) have been discharged to a coin receptacle;

automatically terminating coin sorting when said controller determines that a predetermined number of coins have been discharged to said coin receptacle (U'; terminate when all coins have been sorted);

sliding (122) the moveable coin receptacle platform bearing said coin receptacle along the track from the first position (FIG. 2) to permit access to said coin receptacle (paragraph [0136]);

removing (paragraph [0136]) coins from said coin receptacle; and

sliding said moveable coin receptacle platform back to the first position along the track (122);

Hino does not directly disclose a track on which the platform is *centered*.

Lense shows a similar device having a track (see Fig. 3, 26) for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in the housing (column 1, lines 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to

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modify Hino as taught by Lense and include Lense's similar device having a track for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in the housing.

Claim 25, as understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Muellner (US 4,450,968). Hino discloses:

Claim 25: receiving in a coin input region (A) a plurality of coins of a plurality of denominations to be sorted (112; paragraph [0135]);

sorting the plurality of coins according to denomination with the coin sorting unit (S; paragraph [0130]);

directing (10) sorted coins to the plurality of coin receptacles (124a to 124j; paragraphs [0131] to [0134]);

determining, using a controller (U', FIG. 42), if a predetermined number of coins (paragraph [0042], the number can be all the coins) have been discharged to a coin receptacle;

automatically terminating coin sorting when said controller determines that a predetermined number of coins have been discharged to said coin receptacle (U'; terminate when all coins have been sorted);

sliding (122) the moveable coin receptacle platform bearing said coin receptacle along the track from the first position (FIG. 2) to permit access to said coin receptacle (paragraph [0136]);

removing (paragraph [0136]) coins from said coin receptacle; and

sliding said moveable coin receptacle platform back to the first position along the track (122);

Hino does not directly disclose a track on which the platform is *centered*.

Muellner shows a similar device having a track (see FIG. G1 below, T1) for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters (column 2, lines 57-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Muellner and include Muellner's similar device having a track for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters.

Claim 27 and 33, as understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Muellner. Hino discloses:

Claim 27: housing (See FIG. 2, 110); coin processing device (inside 110); coin sorting unit (S); coin receptacle area (area taken by 120); coin receptacle station (120); coin receptacles (124a to 124j); moveable platforms (122); first position (FIG. 2); second position (FIG. 5); moveable coin bin (the enclosed space of 124a to 124j); interior (the enclosed space of 124a to 124j);

Claim 33: moveable platforms (122); mating profile (122).

Hino does not directly disclose a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms or a track (a rectangle is a type of trapezoid).

However, the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hino

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and include a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms for the purpose of providing more receiving space.

Muellner shows a similar device having a track (see FIG. G1 below, T1) for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters (column 2, lines 57-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Muellner and include Muellner's similar device having a track for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters.

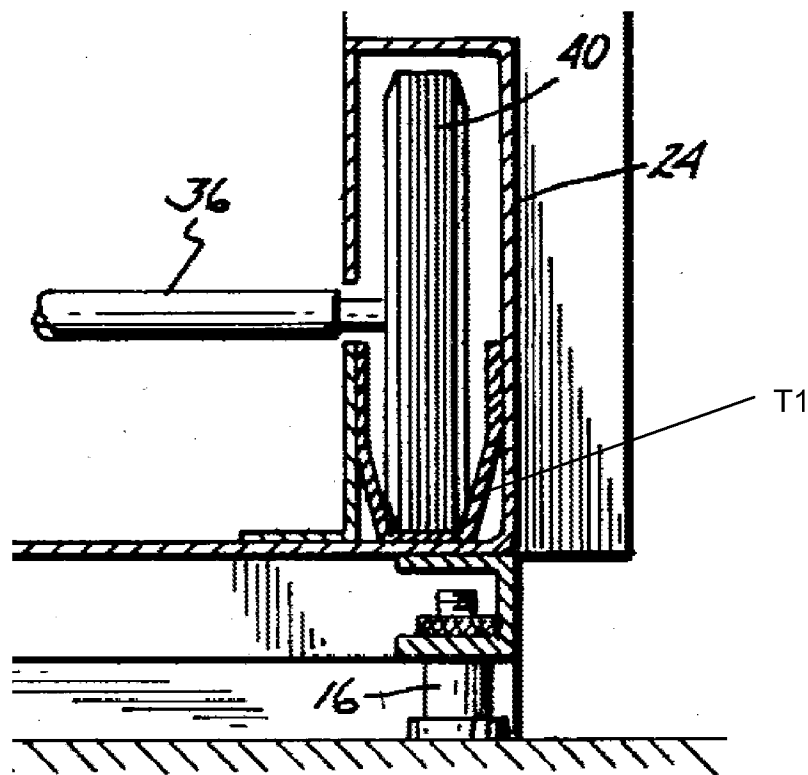


FIG. G1

Claims 14-16 and 26, as understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Lense and further in view of Siemens (US 2002/0011393). Hino discloses all the limitations of the claims as discussed above and the following.

Claim 14: housing (See FIG. 2, 110); open position (FIG. 4); closed position (FIG. 2); moveable platform (122);

Claim 15: rear side (See FIG. 4 below, D); housing (See FIG. 2, 110);

Claim 16: front side (See FIG. 4 below, D; Note: the location of D can be defined as the rear or front side); housing (See FIG. 2, 110);

Claim 26: moving only subsequent to opening of the door of the housing, a coin receptacle platform from the first position to the second position (paragraph [0136]); Hino does not directly show a moveable platform (122 of Hino) that moves relative to a door.

Siemens shows a similar device having a moveable platform (122 of Hino) that moves relative to a door (see FIG. 4, 30) for the purpose of providing convenient and secure access for authorized removal (paragraph [0011]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Siemens and include Siemens's similar device having a moveable platform that moves relative to a door for the purpose of providing convenient and secure access for authorized removal.

Claim 26, as understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Muellner and further in view of Siemens (US 2002/0011393). Hino discloses all the limitations of the claims as discussed above and the following.

Claim 14: housing (See FIG. 2, 110); open position (FIG. 4); closed position (FIG. 2); moveable platform (122);

Claim 15: rear side (See FIG. 4 below, D); housing (See FIG. 2, 110);

Claim 16: front side (See FIG. 4 below, D; Note: the location of D can be defined as the rear or front side); housing (See FIG. 2, 110);

Claim 26: moving only subsequent to opening of the door of the housing, a coin receptacle platform from the first position to the second position (paragraph [0136]); Hino does not directly show a moveable platform (122 of Hino) that moves relative to a door.

Siemens shows a similar device having a moveable platform (122 of Hino) that moves relative to a door (see FIG. 4, 30) for the purpose of providing convenient and secure access for authorized removal (paragraph [0011]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Siemens and include Siemens's similar device having a moveable platform that moves relative to a door for the purpose of providing convenient and secure access for authorized removal.

Claims 10, 12-13, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Lense and further in view of Jones, et al. (US 6,318,537) ("Jones"). Hino teaches all the limitations of the claims as discussed above. Hino does not directly show a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms, a track, coin bags, or coin bag holders.

However, the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hino and include a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms for the purpose of providing more receiving space.

Lense shows a similar device having a track (see Fig. 3, 26) for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in the housing (column 1, lines 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Lense and include Lense's similar device having a track for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in the housing.

Jones shows a similar device having a coin bags (52), and coin bag holders (58) for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination (column 2, lines 25-28), respectively. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Jones and include Jones' similar device having a coin bags, and coin bag holders for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination, respectively.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Muellner and further in view of Jones, et al. (US 6,318,537) ("Jones"). Hino teaches all the limitations of the claims as discussed above. Hino does not directly show a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms, a track, coin bags, or coin bag holders.

However, the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hino and include a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms for the purpose of providing more receiving space.

Muellner shows a similar device having a track (T1 above) for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters (column 2, lines 57-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Muellner and include Muellner's similar device having a track for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters.

Jones shows a similar device having a coin bags (52), and coin bag holders (58) for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination (column 2, lines 25-28), respectively. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Jones and include Jones' similar device having a coin bags, and coin bag holders for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination, respectively.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Lense and further in view of Jones. Hino teaches all the limitations of the claims as discussed above. Hino does not directly show a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms, a track, coin bags, coin bag holders, or a coin bag partition.

However, the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hino and include a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms for the purpose of providing more receiving space.

Lense shows a similar device having a track (see Fig. 3, 26) for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in the housing (column 1, lines 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Lense and include Lense's similar device having a track for the purpose of supporting a platform to slide in the housing.

Jones shows a similar device having a coin bags (52), coin bag holders (58), and a coin bag partition (44) for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination (column 2, lines 25-28) and sorting coins of various denominations (column 2, lines 25-28), respectively. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Jones and include Jones' similar device having a coin bags, coin bag holders, and a coin bag partition for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination and sorting coins of various denominations, respectively.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of Muellner and further in view of Jones. Hino teaches all the limitations of the claims as discussed above. Hino does not directly show a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms, a track, coin bags, coin bag holders, or a coin bag partition.

However, the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hino and include a *plurality* of individual moveable platforms for the purpose of providing more receiving space.

Muellner shows a similar device having a track (T1 above) for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters (column 2, lines 57-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Muellner and include Muellner's similar device having a track for the purpose of receiving and capturing the casters.

Jones shows a similar device having a coin bags (52), coin bag holders (58), and a coin bag partition (44) for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination (column 2, lines 25-28) and sorting coins of various denominations (column 2, lines 25-28), respectively. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Hino as taught by Jones and include Jones' similar device having a coin bags, coin bag holders, and a

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coin bag partition for the purpose of holding the sorted coins of a specific denomination and sorting coins of various denominations, respectively.

Response to Arguments

Regarding the rejections under 35 USC § 102 and 103, the Applicant's remarks will be addressed per Applicant's **Remarks** sections.

I. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Applicant has not refuted the possibility that there may be other causes of movement including tipping the apparatus.

II. Rejections under 35 USC § 102

In the closing movement, C & 122a create a damping force at the *end* of the movement (Note: the *entire* movement was not claimed). For the opening movement, either the (1) operator or some other structure that stops the movement generates damping force at the *end* of the movement or (2) the wheels 122b create friction, or a dampening force during the entire movement. Further, the sides of the interior of 110 and the outside rail of 122 are capable of producing friction, or dampening force during the movement. (Argument B)

Regarding (1), note the difference in the position of 120/122 between FIG. 2 and 4. The structure 120/122 is entirely within the housing 110. Therefore, the door 122a stops 120 within 110. In order to stop 120 within 110, a damping force is required. This damping force is due to the contact between 122a (of 120) and 110. These facts are not explicitly disclosed in Hino since they are known to one of ordinary skill.

Regarding (2), there is no specific structure of the dampening mechanism claimed except a first and second end as identified in FIG. 4 above.

Regarding the claim language in relation to the specification, the structure of the prior art is consistent with the specification as identified in the rejections above. In addition, every element structure of the apparatus claims is identified above.

III. Rejections under 35 USC § 103

See Argument B.

IV. Rejections under 35 USC § 103

A. Claims 5 and 7-9

Note that the rejections have been changed.

Regarding the cantilever of Claim 34 and Muellner, the rejection is withdrawn.

Regarding the track T1 above, note that it is applied directly under the wheels of Hino. Therefore, 122 is directly over the track and wheels (See FIG. 3 of Hino, 122).

The wheels "are configured to" roll and slide. Consider that the friction between the wheel and wheel axle may be great from a heavy load on a moveable platform. This would cause the wheels to seize and would require the wheels to slide.

Further, the *wheels are not claimed to slide*, the **moveable platform is**. As can be seen in FIG. 4 of Hino, 122 slides into the compartment of 110. When pushed, the casters roll *in addition to* and *at the same time* that the drawer slides into the compartment. (Argument C)

Regarding the use of MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B), the duplication of parts here does not produce a "new and unexpected result" from the duplication. MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (B)

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is correctly cited to show that a “mere duplication of parts” is obvious since it involves only routine skill in the art. Multiple moveable platforms together in one unit do not function differently than multiple individual platforms provided side by side. The results of opening a platform does not change if there is one or a plurality of platforms

(Argument A)

B. Claim 25

Examiner has changed the rejection above.

C. Claim 27

Examiner has changed the rejection above. (Regarding the article recitation, see MPEP § 2115, “Expressions relating the apparatus to contents thereof during an intended operation are of no significance in determining patentability of the apparatus claim.”)

D. Claims 33-34

The definition of a trapezoid is one in which a quadrilateral has at least one pair of parallel sides. A rectangle has at least one pair of parallel sides. A rectangle is necessarily a type of trapezoid, but a trapezoid is not necessarily a type of rectangle.

See the new rejections above.

V. Rejections under 35 USC § 103 of Claims 14-16 and 26

Regarding the front and rear sides of the Hino apparatus, Examiner is able to broadly construe a side to be a front or rear side. However, if compared in an individual claim (not claimed), a side would have to be either a front or rear side, exclusively.

VI. Rejections under 35 USC § 103 of Claims 10-13 and 30-31

Examiner provided rationales for combining the references as set forth above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GERALD W. MCCLAIN whose telephone number is (571)272-7803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gerald W. McClain
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

/Patrick H. Mackey/
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